

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

FEBRUARY 2008 BRUSH FIRES

SITUATION REPORT # 7

1500 Hours February 16, 2008

The next Situation Report will be 19 February 2008 at 1500 hours.

SUMMARY

Multiple wildfires were reported in 62 localities across the Commonwealth. High winds fueled the fires and made fires difficult to contain. Several localities submitted requests for assistance.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at **Routine status and operating with normal staffing.**

State of Emergency: Governor Tim Kaine declared a State of Emergency on February 10, 2008 at 1740 Hours.

Protective Actions: Local Emergencies Declared on February 10, 2008:
Bedford County
Roanoke County
Caroline County
Orange County
Dinwiddie County
Lunenburg County
Nelson County
King George County
Henrico County
Hanover County
Charlotte County

Local Emergencies Declared on February 11, 2008
Louisa County

ESF 15 – External Affairs: Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Media interest in the fires is decreasing and the Joint Information Center has stood down. VDEM Public Affairs and VDOF Public Affairs continue to respond to media calls as needed.

WEATHER

Forecast: Saturday, 16 February: Mostly sunny; high temperatures mid 40's to low 50's; southeast winds 5 to 10 MPH. Night: partly cloudy; 20% chance freezing rain after midnight in Southwest VA; low temperatures upper 20's to low 30's; southeast winds 5-10 MPH. Sunday, 17 February: cloudy; 60% chance of rain and freezing rain in Southwest, West Central, Northwest and Northern VA, little or no accumulation, in the morning then rain likely in the afternoon for the Commonwealth; high temperatures mid 40's to mid 50's; south - southeast winds 10 to 20 MPH with gusts up to 25 MPH in Southwest VA. Night: cloudy; 90% chance of rain with chance of thunderstorms after midnight and locally heavy rainfall in Central VA; low temperatures low 40's to low 50's; south - southwest winds 10 to 15 MPH with gusts up to 25 MPH.

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 16 – Military Affairs: Virginia National Guard (VANG)

Joint Operations Center is at increased readiness. 100 National Guard were deployed on 11 February to assist Forestry with operations. **All National Guard personnel have returned to base. 91 are off State Active Duty and 9, in transit, and should be off State Active Duty at 1700 hrs, 16 February.**

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting: Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

The Forestry Command Center is operational **and monitoring mop up operations at the Angel Fire (Carvins Cove, Roanoke County) and the Totiers Ferry Fire (Smith Mountain Dam, Bedford County).**

All VDOF managed fires are now contained. **VDOF personnel remain on scene to monitor the Angel Fire and the Totiers Ferry Fire. VDOF and localities responded to 357 fires which burned 13,938 acres. The fires damaged or destroyed 9 homes, 19 other structures and 7 vehicles. VDOF advises this was worst single day fire siege in Virginia in the last 70 years. [Fire Summation Report 15 Feb 08](#)**

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services:

American Red Cross (ARC)

Southside Area Chapter of the American Red Cross provided mobile feeding throughout Brunswick, Nottoway and Dinwiddie counties. **Roanoke Civic Center sheltered closed on 14 February. Roanoke Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross has provided meals for approximately 110 firefighters during the period 12 – 16 February.**

INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation: Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

All primary and secondary roads are open.

ESF 12 – Energy: State Corporation Commission (SCC)

Power was restored to all electric customers on 14 February.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC coordinated 16 requests for assistance from 14 localities.

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION SECTION

Finance Unit: **Request was sent to State Agencies on 15 February to submit cost estimates related to the brush fires. Final costs are to be submitted by Wednesday, February 27, 2008.**

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

All local emergency operations centers have closed. Fourteen localities requested assistance and **twelve** localities declared local emergencies.

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